

Senator Carl A. Parker Chairman Senator O.H. "Ike" Harris Vice Chairman Senator Steve Carriker Senator Don Henderson Senator Jim Turner

The Texas Senate Subcommittee on Insurance

James W. Fields
Legal Counsel
CJ Parham Tredway
Committee Clerk

August 20, 1991

The Honorable Dan Morales Attorney General Price Daniels Building, Suite 800 Austin, Texas

Dear General Morales:

As the chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Insurance, I respectfully request your opinion on the following:

Does Article 224 V.A.C.S. violate the Open Courts Provision of the Texas Constitution - Article I, Section 13 - by depriving an individual of his or her day in court?

It is my understanding that by utilizing this statute, insurance companies have forced breach of contract causes of action or bad faith claims to mandatory arbitration with no recourse to the courts.

Please contact my office if any additional information is needed. Your attention to this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

CAP/ct

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DAN MORALES